

CALL FOR PAPERS

***The Department of Near and Middle Eastern
Civilizations Graduate Students'
Association
The 19th Annual NMC GSA Symposium***

***Making and Breaking Boundaries:
The Political, Cultural, Ethnic, and Religious Networks, and the
Ever-changing 'Borders' in the
Near and Middle East***

Conference Dates: February 25–26th 2015

Abstract Deadline: January 16th, 2015

Networks and boundaries play a central role in the present-day studies of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations. Having diplomatic and economic relations with different people has always been vital for both nomadic and sedentary societies. Throughout the ancient and medieval eras, trade networks such as the Silk Road, facilitated not only political and economic relations among various countries, but also cultural exchange between them. Military campaigns and peace treaties established political borders between various countries of the Near and Middle East. Simultaneously, however, they paved the way for the mingling of different ethnic and religious groups. With the emergence of modern-day nations, Middle Eastern countries—while developing a sense of collective identity based on their religio-cultural and political ties—have formed their own national identities by reviving the enduring memories of the past. It is thus in light of networks and boundaries that the history, culture, and identity of the Near and Middle Eastern people have been shaped. The NMC GSA at the University of Toronto invites proposals for the 19th Annual Graduate Symposium to be held on February 25–26th 2015 on the subject of relations and boundaries among the countries of the Near and Middle East, and their role in history, politics, economy, and religio-cultural changes.

Suggested Topics Include but are not limited to:

- Trade, Migration, and Exile
- Acculturation, Assimilation, and Nativization
- War, Peace, and Slavery
- Nationalism: Past and Present
- Poets, Scribes, Travellers, and Literary Exchange
- Artists and Architects: The Honored Courts' Guests
- Delegations, Tributes, and Inter-racial Marriages
- Heroic Warriors, Mythic Advisors, and Epic Kings

While proposals on the main theme are appreciated, the committee will also consider all topics related to the study of the Near and Middle East, as well as cognate regions such as the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, Central and South Asia. We invite graduate students to submit an abstract of 250 words or less by e-mail attachment no later than January 16th, 2015 to the Symposium Committee at: nmcgsasymposium@gmail.com. Submissions should include the following information in the body of the e-mail: name, program (M.A., Ph.D.), year of study, area of specialization, department and university, title of paper, and audio-visual requirements. We encourage pre-planned panels on any of the aforementioned topics or one proposed by you. If your paper is being submitted as part of a proposed panel or considered under a specific theme, please include the proposed panel title or the theme under the title of the paper on the abstract.